

TERMS OF REFERENCE - CALL FOR TENDERS – 03/2010
DATA RECOVERY PLAN– ELABORATION OF 2010 DATA FROM
THE AERIAL SURVEY ON SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS
ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT/GBYP – 2010)

Background and objectives

The comprehensive ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) is required to improve basic data collection, our understanding of key biological and ecological processes, assessment models and management.

An important element of this programme is to recover the existing data sets which are not currently incorporated in the ICCAT database on bluefin tuna, to support the improvement of the assessment analytical work. This data recovery might also include the elaboration of data sets (including the most recent ones). The aerial survey on bluefin spawning aggregations was conducted in the spring-summer 2010 and provides initial data, based on a specific survey design of stock abundance. As part of this plan, scientific institutes and public or private entities are asked to submit tenders for the elaboration of the survey data, not currently included in the ICCAT database on bluefin tuna, for the purpose of making them available with the best statistical analysis to the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

All the data collected under the Programme (ICCAT GBYP) will be used for scientific purposes only and in accordance with ICCAT rules (see also Appendix 10 of the 2009 SCRS Report). Any other use of these data must be specifically authorised by ICCAT.

Contractor tasks

Aerial surveys were conducted in the Mediterranean during the spawning season (spring-summer 2010), in order to develop a fisheries-independent population estimate (SSB) or index. A preliminary analysis of these data is required in order to review the ability of the survey design to meet research and management objectives. Following this analysis, recommendations for changes in the survey in subsequent years will be made.

The Contractor, who will work in close consultation with the ICCAT GBYP Coordinator, the Steering Committee and the Population Dynamics Expert, will provide a report in the form of a paper for the SCRS that contains:

1. A summary of the original design with any subsequent modifications
2. A summary of the first year's results including:
 - a) Maps of transects with summary of "nominal" sightings
 - b) Analysis of covariates, correction factors and estimates of detectability
 - c) Preliminary estimates of density and abundance with CVs in each of the survey areas, including both indices and spatial temporal distributions
3. A review of the survey design including:
 - a) Its use in providing fishery-independent index, e.g. absolute estimate vs. index
 - b) Power analysis, e.g., cost of increasing precision and reducing bias
4. Recommendations related to:
 - a) Changes to the design in order to better meet scientific and management objectives
 - b) Use in assessment and management
5. Design for a Future Survey Work Plan

Reports can be submitted according to the time frame specified by the tender, but not later than **27 September 2010**.

Contractor minimum qualifications

- Documented multi-year experience in aerial surveys or census studies of marine populations, or in bluefin tuna studies and/or studies on large pelagic species (previous experience on aerial survey design and analysis is preferred).
- Knowledge of the ICCAT data system and ICCAT procedures to incorporate data sets.
- University degree in one of the following: Fisheries Science, Marine Biology, Statistics or Natural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences, or closely related fields (in case of individual scientists).
- Excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French and Spanish). Knowledge of English is highly desirable.

Request for bids

Interested entities should submit an offer to the attention of Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, at the following address: driss.meski@iccat.int and in copy to gbyp@iccat.int by **30 July 2010**, including:

- a) A detailed offer, which shall include:
 - a detailed description of the analysis to be conducted;
 - the type of maps which will be provided;
 - the approach to revise the survey design;
 - the type of support (paper, electronic file, etc.);
 - the estimated amount of work required.
- b) The date for the interim report and the date for the draft final report (**27 September 2010** at the latest);
- c) The *Curriculum vitae* of the tenderer (in case of individual scientists) and of any collaborator;
- d) The Curriculum of the institution (if an institution is the tenderer), with any documented experience in studies on bluefin tuna, or other large pelagic species or in data collection, to include recent and relevant contracts for the same or similar items and other references (including contract numbers, points of contact with telephone numbers and other relevant information);
- e) A preliminary estimated budget for the 2010 aerial survey design analysis.
- f) The name, address, and telephone number of the tendering body;
- g) The institutional and administrative background of the tendering body (e.g., statutes, type of institution, annual budget, budget control procedures, etc.), if applicable.
- h) A detailed list of any sub-contracting activities;
- i) The declaration that the offering entity shall follow the ICCAT procedures and formats for the data sets to be provided.
- j) A declaration that all the comments eventually made on the draft final report will be incorporated in the final report prior to submission to the ICCAT SCRS.
- k) Acknowledgment of this Call for Tenders (if applicable);
- l) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions herein included.

Offers that fail to furnish the required documentation or information, or reject the terms and conditions of the Call for Tenders will not be considered.

Contractors can be either research institutions such as government or private laboratories, universities, or private consultancy firms or individual scientists or other entities having the qualifications required.

The Contractor should be available to report to any meeting requested by ICCAT.

The ICCAT Secretariat will make a selection of the offers and, in consultation with the ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee. Following the selection process, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will notify the entity selected for the contract by **6 August 2010**.

Deliverables

1. A preliminary short report to be submitted at the latest by **6 September 2010**, including the description of the work carried out up to that date; eventually, any draft final report ready at this date can be also presented.
2. The draft final report to be submitted at the latest by **27 September 2010**, including:
 - a) Full description of the work carried out to recover the data;
 - b) Detailed description of the data sets provided, with reference to the ICCAT database on BFT;
 - c) Detailed description of the methodology;
 - d) Detailed data sets;
 - e) Eventual scientific analysis, prepared taking into account the relevant literature;
 - f) Summary.
3. A short PowerPoint presentation of the main results to the ICCAT SCRS 2010 Species Group Meeting or to any other ICCAT SCRS meeting.
4. The definitive final report, to be prepared taking into account the eventual comments provided by ICCAT and to be submitted by 4 October 2010 at the latest.

Payment details

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

1. 50% of the total amount of the contract upon signing of the contract;
2. 50% after the approval of the final report by the ICCAT SCRS upon incorporation of comments by the ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee.

Logistics

All documents provided by the Contractor must be in MS Word or compatible software, tables must be in Excel format or compatible, figures and pictures must be in JPEG or TIFF format or compatible. All documents submitted must be in English, French or Spanish.

Copyright

All the material produced by the Contractor will remain the property of ICCAT GBYP, will be kept confidential, and cannot, in any case, be circulated by the Contractor selected. The scientific use of the data by the Contractor shall always be notified to ICCAT in advance for clearance.

Information

For information concerning this call for tenders, please contact the ICCAT GBYP Coordinator at the following address: antonio.dinatale@iccat.int.